

# PRESS RELEASE

12<sup>th</sup> December 2006

## Speedy runner jailed for 8 months

A woman who admitted taking amphetamines and who ran out of court found justice caught up with her as she was sentenced to eight months in prison.

Janet Bailey of Kings Walk, Droyksden had been subject to an injunction in August restraining her anti-social behaviour. When brought before the court two weeks ago, she fled with her barrister in hot pursuit. But she was back in Tameside County Court yesterday (Monday) when a judge sentenced her to eight months in prison and extended the Injunction Order to December 2007.

Evidence from neighbours and New Charter's Tenancy Enforcement Team catalogued disturbances including excessively loud music, parties at all hours of day and night, shouting abuse at passers-by, and repeated hammering on the ceiling of her ground floor flat. Bailey was also reported for "mooning" and exposing her breasts to neighbours.

Bailey led an unconventional lifestyle, with conditions inside her flat shocking housing officers. As well as damage, vandalism and graffiti inside, Bailey erected effigies of New Charter staff and other figures of authority in her garden using waste materials and old clothes.

The Court was shown that Bailey had breached the injunction many times, including on the day of the injunction. A psychiatric report before the Court confirmed Bailey suffered from mental health problems, but that her behaviour and risks were almost wholly attributable to her use of amphetamines as a stimulant.

In his judgement, District Judge Osborne said the breaches were serious, and that Bailey had acted in defiance of the Court Order. Although Bailey claimed she thought the actions of New Charter were unfair and that she had done nothing wrong, she had also admitted to taking amphetamines four times a week instead of buying food. DJ Osborne said it was likely her behaviour would continue so long as she chose to take amphetamines.

New Charter's Deputy Chief Executive Martin Frost said: "Bailey's behaviour may have been drug-fuelled, but it is not an excuse the Court accepted. We owe it to our many good

tenants to take action against the few who blatantly have no respect for the neighbourhood. The conditions inside her home are disgraceful, and it will cost to repair the damage she has caused.”

The matter does not end with the jail term. The injunction was extended to December 2007 and New Charter has started action to end Bailey’s tenancy.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £48million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country’s largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association recently, the Group owns over 15,000 homes.
2. Janet Bailey of 20 Kings Walk, Droylsden, date of birth 01.07.1974.
3. Bailey was subject to an Injunction Order dated 10th August 2006. The terms of the Injunction Order forbid her from:
  1. Engaging or threatening to engage in conduct causing or likely to cause a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to any person residing in, visiting or otherwise engaging in a lawful activity in the locality of Kings Walk, Droylsden.
  2. Harassing any person residing, visiting or otherwise engaging in any lawful activity within the locality of Kings Walk, Droylsden.
  3. Using abusive, insulting or threatening language or behaviour towards any such person within the locality of the Property.
  4. Playing loud music at the Property, 20 Kings Walk, Droylsden which can be heard from the outside of the Property or in neighbouring Properties.
4. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations’ performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for Neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

## CONTACTS:

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